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Volume 103.

### Poetry.

For the Mercury.

LINES.

BY MRS. S. L. BREED.

- Know then this truth enough for man to know,  
Virtue alone is happiness below."

Sublime the thought, let sages tell to me,

What other gear there is in all the earth;

Whose priceless worth unrivaled stands alone?

Its value owned by all, yet sought by few;

And these stand forth like stars amid the gloom;

Which none can see but to admire and praise,

Themselves unconscious all.

Enough, what more

One man desire, with conscience clear, and mind

at peace;

Virtue can intrude to mar their perfect bliss,

For they have sought a higher, holier fame,

Than earth can give, immortal laurels from the

hand of God;

Which leads them onward to a deathless life.

Philosophy, with all her wondrous works,

Stands forth, her wisdom to proclaim;

And art and science spread their banners wide

To seek a nation's praise.

"Tis all in vain,

None can compete, let every mortal know

This is the only happiness and true;

Where all can rest secure, and fear no ill,

But stand amid the turmoil, and the strife,

Undaunted like the sturdy oak, and strong,

Trusting the arm, that mighty is to save,

Owning His power, who powerful is for aye,

The great incarnate God.

LITTLE JIM:

The following beautiful poem was recited not

a great while ago at the Lyceum in Philadelphia.

The cottage was a thatched one,

The outside old and mean,

Yet everything within that cot

Was wondrous neat and clean;

The night was dark and stormy,

The house was cold,

And a patient mother watched beside

The death-bed of her child—

A little, worn-out creature,

His once blue eyes grown dim,

It was a collier's only child,

We called him little Jim.

And, oh! to see the briny tears

Fast hurried down his cheek,

As he had laid up a prayer in thought,

Sure she might wake one she loved

Better than her life.

For she had all a mother's heart,

Had that poor collier's wife;

With hands uplifted—see she kneels

Beside the sufferer's bed,

And prays that He will spare her boy,

And take herself instead;

She gets her answer from her child,

Soft fall these words from him:

"Mother, the angels do so smile,

And beckon little Jim."

I struck directly toward the spot where

I had seen the object. It appeared to be

only half a mile or so from the trail.

It proved more distant—a common illusion in

the crystal atmosphere of these upland re-gions.

A curiously formed ridge—a *couteau des prairies* on a small scale—traversed

the plain from east to west. A thicket of

cactus covered part of the summit. To

wards this thicket I directed myself.

I dismounted at the bottom of the hill,

and leading my horse up silently among

the cacti, led him to one of the

branches. I then crept cautiously thro'

the thorny leaves, toward the point where

I had seen the game. To my joy, not one

antelope but a brace of those beautiful ani-

mals, was quietly grazing beyond;

but, alas! too far off for the carry of my rifle.

I made an effort to extricate myself,

another, more violent, and equally unsuc-

cessful, and with a third I lost my balance

and fell back upon the water.

Half suffocated I regained my upright

position, but only to find that I was held

as firmly as ever.

A again struggled to free my limbs. I

could neither move them backward nor

forward—to the right nor to the left; and

I became sensible that I was gradually

going down. Then the fearful truth flashed

upon me—I was sinking in a quicksand!

A feeling of horror came over me. I

renewed my efforts with the energy of des-

peration. I leaned to one side, and then to

the other, almost wrenching my knees

from their sockets. My feet remained

fast as ever. I could not move them an

inch!

The soft, clinging sand already overtopped

my horse-skin boots, wedging them around

my ankles so that I was unable to draw

them off, and I could feel that I was sink-

ing slowly, but surely, as though some

subterranean monster were leisurely drag-

ging me down. This very thought caused

me a fresh thrill of horror, and I called

aloud for help. To whom! There was

no one within ten miles of me—no living

thing! Yes! the neigh of my horse an-

sawed me from the hill, mocking my des-

pair. I bent forward, as far as my con-

strained position would permit, and with

frenzied fingers commenced tearing up the

sand. I could barely reach the surface;

and the little hollow I was able to make,

filled up almost as soon as it had been

formed.

A thought occurred to me. My rifle

might support me placed horizontally. I

looked around for it; it was not to be

seen; it had sunk beneath the sand.

Could I throw my body flat, and prevent

myself from sinking deeper? No. The

water was two feet in depth. I should

drown at once.

This last hope left me as soon as formed.

I could think of no plan to save myself.

I rushed up to my steed, and, throwing

my arms around his neck, kissed him with

as much delight as I would have kissed a

beautiful girl. He answered my embrace

with a low whimper, that told me I was

dead.

After an interval my senses returned—

I made an effort to rouse my mind from

its paralysis, in order that I might meet

death—which I now believed to be cer-

tain—as a man should.

I lay for several minutes, thinking over

the different tricks known in hunter-craft

for taking the antelope. Should I hoist

my handkerchief, and try to lure them up?

Should I imitate their call? I saw that

they were too shy; for, at intervals, they

threw up their graceful heads, and looked

inquiringly around them. I remembered

the red blanket on my saddle. I could dis-

play this in a cactus bush—perhaps it

would attract them.

I had no alternative; and was turning to

go back for the blanket, when all at once

my eye rested upon a clay-covered line,

running across the prairie, beyond where

the animals were feeding. It was a

break in the surface of the plain—buffalo

road—or the channel of an arroyo—in

either case the very cover I wanted—for

the animals were not a hundred yards from

it; and were getting still nearer to it as they fed.

Creeping back out of the thicket, I ran

along the side of the slope toward a point,

where I had noticed that the ridge was de-

pressed to the prairie level. Here, to my

surprise, I found myself on the bank of a

broad arroyo, whose water, clear and shall-

low, ran slowly over a bed of sand and

gypsum.

A portable sun dial, recently patented in Ber-

lin, consists of a hollow metallic hemisphere,

representing in its shape the visible firmament—

# The Newport Mercury.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 9, 1861.

MEXICO is again entitled to a share of attention, as being still, in more senses than one, an example not to be forgotten, as well as in the chronicle of important events of the times, one of the "iron in the fire." After the decisive battle, in which MIRAMON and his bigoted party were defeated beyond the hope of recovery, the prospect that peace would be restored, to that beautiful and most interesting country, has become very encouragingly bright. And after so many years of bloody strife, in which money and caste from within, and the influence of powers more or less despotism from without, the constitution of that republic appears to have triumphed over every force, through the persevering devotion of the people. Though it may still remain a question whether civil authority will permanently vindicate its just ascendancy over the inveterate and intolerable abuses of military anarchy. This cannot be accomplished in a day. Barbarism and civilization have had a long conflict in Mexico, and civilization there, as everywhere else, by descending into the field of savage warfare, has gained no honor from victory which did not already belong to the merits of the cause. The triumph over the priest and army party, (rare as such an occurrence may be,) was a triumph of the constitution over the purse and the sword.

A grand entrance, on the 11th of January, was made by President JUAREZ into the city of Mexico, the ancient and renowned capital of the nation. And his reception is reported to have been all that the most ardent admirers of the President could have wished. Enthusiasm was manifested by crowds of spectators in every place and position where the procession could be seen; and for this purpose magnificent arches were erected and beautiful flags displayed all along the line of march to the Grand Plaza. The houses by which the procession was to pass, were all decorated for the occasion; and, in the joy of deliverance from their late tyrants, the multitudes had crowded together on the house-tops, in the balconies and at every opening for observation, as well as immovably in the streets. But no portion of the population were more anxious to manifest their favorable interest in this demonstration, than the foreign residents who have suffered so much from the rapacity of the priest and army party, and from the leaders of that party when in power.

When changes of this kind, however, are suddenly produced by the fortunes of war, what the result will be cannot be safely predicted. The action of the President *ad exterm.* and his cabinet, has been prompt, if not prudent, in sending to certain foreign ministers, who are personally obnoxious to the government, their passports; and that too under the injunction to depart from the republic "without further delay than may be strictly necessary to prepare and make the journey." The obnoxious foreign minister to whom this notice to quit has been given, are only those from Guatamala and Ecuador, PACHECO, the Ambassador from Spain, and the Pope's Nuncio, as one of the enemies of the government. All this however was but a matter of course, and, whatever the Spanish inhabitants may think of it, should not lead to a war with either of the countries whose ministers have been dismissed. The British minister, though hitherto not recognizing JUAREZ, is not included in the notice as an enemy to the country. But England will no doubt recognize the constitutional government, as soon as the seizure of the conducta made in September last shall have been duly settled; and the constitutional government has issued a decree for the payment of the balance due, with all losses and damages which have accrued. Funds for that purpose to come from the sale of the yet unsold convents.

But the case of the foreign ministers seems not so likely to produce dissension among the Mexicans, as the manner in which the chiefs and leaders of the priest and army party should be treated. By an existing law, conspirators were to be shot as soon as identified.

Then the arrest of DIAZ, the chief adviser of

MIRAMON and arch instigator of atrocities, was made public, orders were issued by the proper department to enforce the law. This was popular with many who had suffered so much from the loss of their friends during the course of this civil war in Mexico. Revenge to them would be sweet. But the orders were countermanded, and, as report says, through the entreaties of the wife of MIRAMON; and that, in consequence of her appeals, banishment was substituted as the penalty of the conspirators. But then the complaint was, that the greatest criminals would escape justice, and be allowed to spend their ill-gotten wealth in foreign lands with impunity. MIRAMON is reported to have divided \$180,000 among his choice followers when they were disbanded. He was in company with DIAZ when DIAZ was arrested, and succeeded in escaping to the woods—but was pursued by some Indians who may have taken him into their custody. Perhaps the public safety in Mexico does not now require severe measures. At any rate, the constitutional government has great merit, so far at least, as moderation is a merit. Small powers are supposed to be uniformly inclined to be spiteful in such cases. They cannot so well afford to be generous to a fallen enemy, as they might be if less exposed to a like fortune.

The final settlement of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts boundary question will not reach its final settlement until next winter, the Supreme Court at Washington having notified the Commissioners that the decree will be given at that time. In the meantime we notice that the Massachusetts people directly interested will make great efforts to defeat the project. The New Bedford Standard says—

"An examination of the statistics relating to the territory proposed to be given, and received, discloses almost extraordinary and unrecognizable inequality against us, in every aspect of the case."

The total number of inhabitants to be added to the county is called about 3400, while we lose—certainly as good a class of citizens—about 6000; an exchange of nearly two for one. The net loss in number of taxable polls is not far from 800 to 900. The number of acres added is way between two and three times the amount required, so that the natural inequality is in the taxable property. According to the recent valuation of 1860, the town of Pawtucket rated at a trifle over \$2,000,000. That proportion of Seconk added till is computed to be about \$4,800,000. The highest estimate we have heard placed on the taxable property to be added to us does not exceed \$1,300,000. Showing a net loss of the round sum of \$1,300,000 to this County! This affects every tax-paying citizen."

THE PEACE CONVENTION assembled at Washington on Monday and fully organized the day following. JOHN TYLER, of Virginia, was chosen President of the Convention and delivered an address which is eulogized by insiders as patriotic and conciliatory. The sessions are to be held with closed doors. The Convention consists, so far as is known at present, of delegates from seven free and seven slave States—Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Indiana, Connecticut, Slave States—Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

A treaty between Russia and China, was concluded about three weeks after those entered into by China with Great Britain and France. The English ministerial journal looks upon the arrival of the Muscovite, as rather a matter of surprise. But how could the Allies expect that Russia would be an indifferent spectator in the war which they planned and conducted for their own aggrandizement. Russia could not hope to share in the plunder of his Celestial Majesty's summer house, and so far from desiring to traffic in opium slavery, she already had more serfs than she knew how to emancipate, and when the expedition of the Allies were advancing upon the capital, the opportunity to mediate presented to Russian ambition a much safer means of approaching that great seat of empire, and without departing from the territory upon which a Russian army might march without invading the soil of a foreign country. The Russian Ambassador accordingly sets as mediator, and prevents the Allies from making any territorial acquisition of the least importance, compelling them even to evacuate Chusan, and to be content with the wages which they had, so dearly earned when compared with the disgrace which they so richly deserve for their barbarous conduct. But by the treaty which Russia subsequently made with the same power and in compensation for her peace-making influence, she acquires an immense extent of sea-coast south of the Amoor, the previous boundary. The Amoor being now the natural boundary between China and Russia only until it receives the Ousouri; and to trace the boundary beyond the confluence, it is necessary to ascend the Ousouri in a southerly direction, about seven hundred miles, and to leave it to Russia all east of that river and between it and the sea of Japan, a territory about three hundred miles wide and extending seven hundred long or including the Bay of Victoria down to Corea. By this means the Russian dominions are made to approach within eight hundred miles of Pekin. But what will the Allies say to a power which approaches near to Pekin and Jeddo, as it does to Berlin and Vienna? Why; that it would be most formidable, if it did not hold a title of no value, because it is mostly a barren and savage country.

No important change in the affairs of the prospective Italian Kingdom, appears to have lately occurred. But the siege of Gia is continued; and the French squadron having been withdrawn, the Italian fleet has replaced the French for the blockade of that port. The Russian ships of war which had been reported to be there to succor the French, were never assigned that duty; as all foreign vessels, according to a reliable despatch, had left that port on the 19th of January, the date when the remainder of the French Squadron left. If the purpose of Napoleon was simply by the presence of his fleet to give the ex-King of Naples an opportunity to escape without danger, that offer continued to be made for so long a time that the appearance at least was hardly consistent with the Emperor's professed neutrality. But perhaps he had good reason to believe that FRANCIS II, would not hold out with such obstinacy. Report says he will remain to the last. The prospect however is, that the last will not be very long delayed. The expectation was, that the bombardment would recommence on the 21st of January. PANZANO, the Sardinian Admiral, had given notice that he would allow the inhabitants a few hours to consult their safety by leaving the city. Probably very many of them would take that course, unless they were very strong partisans of the deposed monarch. To others perhaps it would be immaterial under which King it should be, their fortune to live, or whether they should live for any fortune. But there is a vast difference between VICTOR EMANUEL and FRANCIS II, both in their personal qualifications and in the systems which they would support as the basis of monarchy. One rule by the will of his people and for the benefit of the Italian nation. The other rule only by his own will, and in defiance of the popular sentiment of his country. One is elective in fact, while the other is simply hereditary. And in this instance of difference, it is strikingly evident that though the hereditary ruler has a great advantage on that account for securing the loyalty of his subjects, yet that advantage is no compensation for the privilege, which should be enjoyed by good subjects, of maintaining a voluntary allegiance to a good prince.

THE following is an extract of a letter dated Fort Taylor, Key West, Jan. 25, 1861, from one of the Newport boys—

Dear Friend—I tell you it is awful to be caged up here in this isolated place with tediums from home so seldom. All the men are hard at work putting the Fort in a state of defense, and a week ago last Sunday we received a report that a party were on their way to take the Fort. All hands were called out, and part of the wharf connecting the Fort to the main land was pulled down; but since then a drawbridge has been constructed—the Fort stands about 600 feet from the land. Cannons have been placed to take the city and about 100 are ready to fire at a moment's notice. We sleep in the city, a short distance from the Fort, and a short time since the people were so excited that we expected much further in the prosecution of the "bully programme."

THE prospect of a cotton famine in the British manufacturing districts, appears to become every day more alarming. The leading press in London, in every interest, testifies to the straits imposed upon the invention of the ablest minds to discover how the impending danger could be avoided. "Three fourths of their cotton supply," they say, "will be cut off by the trouble in America." "One third of their trade" will in consequence cease to be available. And "one sixth of their population," at the same time and from the same cause, may be deprived of their usual earnings. They shew that relief, on the near approach of the season when, if the seed be not planted, the crop must fail to be gathered. They look to India, but there insurrection may again disappoint their hopes as it has done before; and from that source no sufficient supply can be obtained for the present year, if it might be for some year in the distant future. In Africa, there are suitable lands enough, and unemployed hands enough; but it would take an age to bring either to the remunerative standard of cultivation, which requires the supervision and control of well regulated plantations. The coasts of the Mediterranean are also surveyed, and found to contain an area, sufficient to supply the world with cotton, if the world would bid high enough for the article, and were in a condition to wait till the Mediterranean shall be girt with cotton plantations. But nothing is more certain than this, that no sufficient supply can be afforded to the wants of the coming year in Europe, if the perils, which are there understood to threaten the peace of the States in this country, should not be mercifully made to pass away without interrupting the ordinary course of cultivation in the field. And the English government and people are therefore greatly alarmed, and have great reason to be alarmed, in view of a probable contest, not exactly between the Northern and Southern States, but between those who would battle on one side or the other in defense of the prevailing views in one or the other section. Because it is notorious, as the English press declares, "that upon one article of American produce, millions are dependent in that country for their daily bread."

THE steamer Empire State, while on her way from Fall River to this city Thursday evening, came in collision with a schooner at anchor to the south of Coasters Harbor Island, and knocked her stem to the larboard side, so that it was impossible to proceed on her trip. She does not leak, and it was expected that her passengers and freight would be transferred to the Bay State last evening when sufficient repairs could be made to enable her to proceed to New York where she will be put upon the railroads. Had the railroad been constructed to Newport, this accident would not have occurred.

THOMAS STACE KING, in a letter about the California gold region to the Boston Transcript, says—

"It is an area equal to the whole of New England, and its riches are scarcely touched as yet. There is no more danger that the wheat will give out than that the gold harvest will. The hydraulic pipes, fed by 9,000 miles of aqueduct, may pour out their wrath without stint, the 3000 quartz mills, that cost \$3,500,000, may run day and night without fear of draining the yellow crop. It is said by some geologists here that there are single quartz veins in the State which contain more gold than is at present in circulation in all the world."

WE are requested to state to our readers who supply our citizens with milk, that by a law passed by the General Assembly, milk must be sold by wine measure, and it is necessary that the measures should be sealed by some one specially appointed for that purpose, or a heavy penalty will be imposed. Therefore it is for the interest of milk dealers to attend to the matter at once. Mr. LANGLEY, the seal-er appointed by the city, will be found at the City Hall from 9 to 11 A.M.

NOWHERE standing the disagreeable weather of Thursday evening, a large number attended the Sons Musical, at Aquidneck Hall, and at the close of the performance, generally expressed their satisfaction. The National Song, by Mr. FRANCIS Moulton, was received with the most hearty applause, while Mrs. PAYNE and Mrs. MERRITT were frequently encored. The performance on the piano by Miss BRIGHTMAN, Mr. PAYNE and Mr. SPENCER, was well received, but it requires a better judge than ourself to criticise their efforts.

FOUR churches are now standing in Boston which were built before the revolution, namely: Brattle street, in 1770; King's Chapel, in 1749; Old South, in 1773; King's Church, in 1749.

THE friends of Mr. THOMAS DUNN, son of Dr. T. C. DUNN, will be pleased to learn of his appointment as Consul at Fuh Chow, China. He has for several years resided in that locality, and is fully versed in the requirements of those of our merchants who do business in the Celestial Kingdom.

THE PEACE CONVENTION assembled at Washington on Monday and fully organized the day following. JOHN TYLER, of Virginia, was chosen President of the Convention and delivered an address which is eulogized by insiders as patriotic and conciliatory. The sessions are to be held with closed doors. The Convention consists, so far as is known at present, of delegates from seven free and seven slave States—Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Indiana, Connecticut, Slave States—Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

THE Friends of the Poor, having collected \$1,000,000, will be pleased to learn of their success in the collection of \$1,000,000, which was to be used for the relief of the poor in Boston.

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